

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SMI-01

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R 262337Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

UNCLAS STATE 230716

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GH

SUBJECT:SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. SMITHSONIAN STAFF FOLKLORIST DR. BERNICE REAGON  
ARRIVING ACCRA 16 OCTOBER, 1515 HOURS, GHANA FLIGHT 549;  
DEPARTING 20 OCTOBER, 0900 HOURS, AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHT 510.  
HOTEL RESERVATIONS REQUESTED.

2. PURPOSE IS TO OFFICIALLY INVITE GHANIAN PARTICIPATION  
1976 BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL UNDER ROUGHLY SAME TERMS AS  
SUCCESSFUL 1975 PARTICIPATION. SMITHSONIAN PROPOSING  
GROUP OF 25 FOLK ARTISTS PLUS ONE FOLKLORIST AND ONE TOUR  
ADMINISTRATOR.

3. SIX WEST AFRICAN AND SIX CARIBBEAN NATIONS BEING INVITED  
TO APPEAR TWO WEEKS EACH DURING TWELVE WEEK FESTIVAL ON THE  
MALL, WASHINGTON, WITH SUBSEQUENT TWO OR THREE WEEK TOUR  
TO JOIN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN FOUR OR SIX MAJOR  
CITIES.

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4. GHANA AND JAMAICA TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR OPENING TWO

WEEKS, JUNE 15 THROUGH 29.

5. SMITHSONIAN CONTRACT FOLKLORIST BILL WIGGINS WILL  
CONDUCT FIELD RESEARCH WITH GOG-DESIGNATED CULTURAL

OFFICIAL ONE WEEK LATE NOVEMBER. CONTRACT ARCHITECT  
ARTHUR JONES WILL VISIT ACCRA AT SAME TIME TO STUDY  
CONSTRUCTION OF TRADITIONAL HOME, TO BUILD SIMILAR HOME  
AT 1976 FESTIVAL PERFORMING AREA. BIO DATA AND ETAS WILL  
BE TRANSMITTED LATER.

6. DUPLICATE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED INFORMATION  
COUNSELOR BROBEY, GHANA EMBASSY, SEPTEMBER 18. HIS INITIAL  
REACTION ENTHUSIASTIC. HE SUGGESTS REAGON CONFER OCTOBER  
17 WITH A.W. KAYPER-MENSAH, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND  
CULTURE, AND WITH CHARLES PHILLIPS, ARTS COUNCIL, IF USIS  
CAN ARRANGE.

7. REAGON THEN HOPES CONFER WITH SAKA ACQUAYE, WITH A.M.  
OPOKU OF UNIVERSITY OF GHANA AT LEGON AND MR. IDAN OF  
KUMASI CULTURAL CENTER.

8. SMITHSONIAN WILLING TO CONSIDER DIFFERENT GROUP FOR  
1976. VERY INTERESTED IN A LARGER NORTHERN MUSICAL GROUP,  
SALISU MAHAMA OR EQUIVALENT. BROBEY SUGGESTED AND  
SMITHSONIAN AGREEABLE TO SECOND ASHANTI PERFORMING GROUP.  
BROBEY THEN INQUIRED WHETHER ASANTEHENE MIGHT BE INVITED  
UNDER SEPARATE CU GRANT FOR WASHINGTON AND OAKLAND (KAISER)  
PERFORMANCES. SMITHSONIAN BELIEVES THIS HAS CONSIDERABLE  
MEDIA POTENTIAL AND INVITES POST OPINION. IF CONSIDERED  
FEASIBLE, REAGON MIGHT VISIT KUMASI OCTOBER 18 OR 19, WITH  
USIS ASSISTANCE, TO DISCUSS IDEA AND REVIEW ASHANTI  
PRESENTATION. ASHANTI COMPONENT WOULD NUMBER TEN OR TWELVE,  
INCLUDING TWO OR THREE IN ASANTEHENE'S RETINUE WHO WOULD  
ALSO PERFORM IN THIRTY TO FORTY FIVE MINUTE PRESENTATION.

9. AS BROBEY FORESAW VISIT, ASANTEHENE COULD RESIDE WITH  
AMBASSADOR, HIS PRIVATE RETINUE STAY WITH MAIN GROUP AT  
MARYMOUNT COLLEGE. ONE OF HIS PALANQUINS WOULD HAVE BPF4  
SURFACE-SHIPPED AHEAD, SO HE COULD BE BORNE IN CEREMONIAL  
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PROCESSION EACH MORNING TO FESTIVAL STAGE AND PRESIDE AT  
SCHEDULED ASHANTI PRESENTATIONS. BROBEY GUARANTEES CLOSE  
TO FIFTY LOCAL GHANAIAAN STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE GRATIS  
IN COSTUME, SUPPLEMENTING GROUP FROM GHANA. IF KAISER  
WILLING HOST ASANTEHENE'S OAKLAND VISIT, AT LEAST ONE  
SIMILAR EVENT COULD BE PRESENTED OAKLAND. ASANTEHENE  
MIGHT THEN RETURN GHANA BUT RETINUE CONTINUE TOUR.

10. DEPARTMENT AND SMITHSONIAN WELL AWARE FROM PAST  
EXPERIENCES DIFFICULTIES IN CU PROGRAMMING VIP OF  
ASANTEHENE LEVEL. POSSIBILITY OF HIS TOUR MENTIONED ONLY  
BECAUSE IT WAS BROBEY PROPOSAL.

11. KAISER SPONSORSHIP OAKLAND VISIT WAS ALSO BROBEY  
SUGGESTION WHICH WASHINGTON CANNOT EVALUATE.

12. COPY REVISED 1976 INVITATION AND OTHER BACKGROUND  
MATERIALS BEING MAILED TO USIS. POST COOPERATION AND  
GUIDANCE WILL BE MOST APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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